

REMARKS

Claims 31-56 and 59 remain in this application. Claims 57 and 58 have been cancelled. Claims 31, 38-43, and 46-54 have been amended.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the consideration provided by Examiner Monshipouri during the telephone conferences with Applicants' representative on December 17, 2009 and December 23, 2009. During the telephone conferences, the Examiner proposed claim amendments to place the application in condition for allowance. Those amendments have been incorporated herein. No new matter has been added.

Entry of the above amendments is earnestly solicited. Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Should there be any matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future submissions, to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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